

Location: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

TOPIC C724: DRIVING IN WINTER WEATHER

Introduction: Driving in winter weather is a challenge for vehicles and drivers.

Driving in winter weather: Keep your seat belt on; reduce speeds on slippery roads; avoid cruise control as you need your full attention; reduce your speed approaching intersections covered with ice or snow; if the weather is worsening, consider getting off the road before getting stranded

- “Black ice” is invisible on roads. It can be worse on bridges or overpasses where cold air, wind pass under the road creating the Black Ice on the road above where air moisture has settled.
- Use low-beam headlights, turning them on also activates the taillights making you more visible; lengthen your following distance. Stopping distance on icy roads is twice what it is on dry. Stay in the right-hand lane except when passing and use turn signals when changing lanes; keep all movement smooth and precise-changing lanes quickly and jerky steering while braking/accelerating causes skidding; be patient and pass only when it is safe to do so

Braking on a slippery road: Your vehicle is (probably) equipped with ABS (anti-lock braking system). In an emergency where slamming the brakes may happen (keep your foot on the brake pedal), the computer takes over and brakes you safely. In non-emergencies- anticipate with gentle braking.

Braking without anti-lock brakes: Use the heel-and-toe method, keep your heel on the floor and use your toes to press the brake pedal firmly just short of locking up the wheels. Release the pressure on the pedal, and press again in the same way. Repeat this until you come to a full stop.

Anti-lock brakes: Press the brake pedal and do not remove your foot from the brake pedal until the vehicle comes to a complete stop.

What to do in the event of a skid: If a rear wheel powered skid-“steer into the skid,” which means steer to the same side the back end of the car is sliding towards. During a front-wheel skid, straighten the steering wheel. Also-with ABS fitted to your vehicle, it is acceptable to “Stomp and steer” ABS is not there to help you stop sooner, it is a device that allows you to keep on steering while braking, making it tremendously useful. You will feel the brake pedal pulsing under your foot or you hear a stutter while you are braking, ABS is working.

What to do if stuck or stranded: Call 911. If unavailable- Stay in the car if you can’t shovel your car out; in blizzard conditions, don’t leave the car for assistance unless help is visible within 100 yards

- Turn on your flashers or set up flares. A brightly colored cloth on the radio antenna can make your vehicle more visible
- Run engine about 10 minutes every hour to provide heat. Make sure that the exhaust pipe is free of snow and keep the window opened slightly to prevent the buildup of carbon monoxide when the engine is running.
- Don’t stay in one position too long. Do some exercises to help your circulation, move your arms and legs and clap your hands

Employee Attendance:(Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

These guidelines do not supersede local, state or federal regulations, and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.